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HOUSE RESOLUTION 28

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WHEREAS, The Illinois State Board of Education has been granted a waiver to No Child Left Behind that mandates that each race will have a separate standard to meet over the time frame from 2011 to 2017 to raise reading and math scores for grades 3 through 8; the standards amongst Caucasians, African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asian-Americans are not equal, with African-Americans and Hispanics being held to a lesser standard than Caucasians and Asian-Americans; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois State Board of Education has determined certain races are not as smart or as capable of learning as others in its use of race-based standards, the end result being that basing standards on race across the State of Illinois eliminates the ability of students to transfer to better schools since all schools have the same standards, which traps the students in poor performing schools where they will receive a substandard education based solely on their race; and

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WHEREAS, Instituting race-based education is a violation of the United States and Illinois Constitutions, which guarantee equal protection and forbid discrimination; and

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WHEREAS, In the cases of home-schooled African-American children, the racial achievement gap is virtually eliminated

1 with African-American students scoring almost twice what their
2 public school counterparts are scoring; and

3 WHEREAS, When African-American children are given high
4 expectations for learning and are shown respect from their
5 teachers, the racial achievement gap is virtually eliminated;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The United States is continuing to drop in
8 international education rankings, ranking about 35 when it used
9 to be ranked number one, in part due to race-based standards;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The more the United States federalizes education,
12 spends money, and increases education bureaucracy while
13 reducing local parental control, the more the State of Illinois
14 lowers its expectations of certain races and the more the
15 rankings fall; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 urge the State Board of Education to promote the same
19 educational standards for students of all races so that they
20 receive equal access to, and rights in, education, without any
21 distinction being made regarding the testing capabilities of
22 any one race; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the members of this body pledge to review
2 State policies and support current State programs that address
3 the distinction made among the races when it comes to equal
4 access to and rights in education; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we urge the State Board of Education to
6 support our young people by fully funding quality neighborhood
7 schools, which should include mentoring programs,
8 state-of-the-art library media centers, rigorous science,
9 literature, social sciences and math, youth guidance programs,
10 smaller class sizes, music, drama, visual arts, world
11 languages, and athletics; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we urge our public servants and community
13 leaders to address the underlying racial, social, economic, and
14 historical inequities faced by young African-Americans; and be
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That we urge the State Board of Education to
17 abolish any race-based standards in its policies and
18 procedures; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 delivered to the State Board of Education.